

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and Notes on Newfoundland and Labrador's Intangible Cultural Heritage Program



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HFNL's ICH office at work in Paris

By Dale Jarvis

This past year, I've been serving on a UNESCO committee, essentially as a jury member to assist with the evaluation of ICH heritage files. At its eighth session the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Baku, Azerbaijan, December 2013) designated the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador as one of the twelve

members of the Consultative Body for the 2014 cycle.

The consultative body, made up of experts and NGOs, was responsible for the evaluation in 2014 of nominations to the Urgent Safeguarding List, proposals to the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices and requests for International Assistance. A total of fourteen files were completed by the submitting States in time for evaluation by the Consultative Body. The Consultative Body met at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 27 and 28 March 2014, in a joint meeting with the Subsidiary Body, to determine working methods and schedule.

The Secretariat established a password-protected, dedicated website through which members could consult the files together with any accompanying documentation. The members of the Body submitted their evaluation reports directly through the website. Each of the members of the Consultative Body evaluated each file and prepared a report on it explaining whether and how it responded to the applicable criteria and including the member's comments regarding each criterion.

Following the submission of their individual reports, the Consultative Body met from 8 to 11 September 2014 to debate its recommendations on each criterion in order to formulate draft decisions for each file. All of the recommendations of the Consultative Body are available in a series of 4 reports on the UNESCO website. Recommendations will be discussed and hopefully ratified at the 9th session of the intergovernmental committee this November.

After that session, the Body will be disbanded, and a new body, combining the functions of the consultative and subsidiary bodies will be created for the next session. At the moment, that concludes HFNL's participation in the committee, and we'll wait and see if we are asked to sit on the next iteration. It has been an honour to serve on the Consultative Body this past year, and a fascinating opportunity to observe and participate in the workings of the ICH Convention.

Children's Games in Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove

By Terra Barrett

From popular children's games such as hide and seek, kick the can and spotlight to games of jacks, alleys and skipping which use minimal equipment, I've heard of a wide variety of children's games played in Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove.

When you ask about children's games and activities you get a wide variation of response. For many people their childhood brings back feelings of nostalgia and they remember all the fun they had as children in Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove. I had the unique opportunity to interview twin brothers and I think their different responses about the children's games and activities they played when they were growing up shows two different perspectives of childhood. The brothers were born March 15, 1945 and grew up in Petty Harbour.



I interviewed Gussie Kieley about growing up in Petty Harbour on July 4, 2014 in the community centre. Although he recognized the work and the poverty that was around at the time of his childhood he also described growing up in the fifties and sixties as being completely magical.

"Everything was so much fun then. We were always outside. Always, always."

-Gussie Kieley, former resident of Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove

I interviewed his brother Jimmy Kieley in his home in Petty Harbour on July 23, 2014. Although he mentions a number of children's games which he played, he mainly focused on the work. He explained that they were always working when they were children.

"Pidley sticks, alleys – we were never into sports, right? Never. A bit of baseball that's all, right? Never played hockey in me life, never knew how to skate, never learned how to swim. All we done when we were young was work. I was out fishing when I was eight years old."

-Jimmy Kieley, resident of Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove

Although both brothers left the community Jimmy has since returned and has lived in the harbour for the past twenty years while Gussie has not lived in Petty Harbour for more than a couple months at a time since he left after high school. While both brothers reflected on their childhood it seemed that Gussie reflected on his with a nostalgic lens while Jimmy focused on the chores which were a part of growing up in Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove.

Another interesting concept which appeared in many of the interviews was the idea of reusing household or community materials to create a new toy for a game. A hoop from a barrel or a bike and an old coat hanger could become a game in itself. You could roll the hoop and try all sorts of tricks with the hoop and stick. For games of baseball and pidley you would make your own bats and sticks; these could be made of sticks from the trees or an old broom handle. If someone was lucky enough to get a baseball in St. John's it would be covered in tape and kept for the entire summer season. Other household materials such as a wooden cotton reel would be used as a mold to make a lead weight. This lead weight would be combined with trout hooks to make a flicker that children would use to fish for tomcods in the harbour. Community materials such as the longers from fish flakes were not safe either. These longers would be used for swords in a sword fight.

"Then we would have sword fights. We would have a, we would get a - the fish flakes had all longers we called them, all small sticks about as big as a Pepsi can right? And then the end of them was long and pointy so we'd crack off one of them nail a little piece on the cross here we are. It's a wonder we all didn't lose our eyes."

-Mike Hearn, resident of Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove

I've interviewed a number of residents and former residents of Petty Harbour-Maddox Cove and the thing that has really stood out has been the resourceful and ingenious ways children find to have fun. With minimal toys and equipment the children found games to amuse themselves. They also used easily accessible materials to create equipment and activities such as fishing for tomcod which would prepare them for the fishery.

~ Putting Up Ice ~

Beaver Pond: A Municipal Heritage Site in Harbour Breton

By Doug Wells

Beaver Pond is located in the Arm area of Harbour Breton, not too far from the shoreline. Its historical significance is connected with the cutting of ice in the pond. It is a fairly small-sized pond, shallow and producing thick ice. Cutting ice in Beaver Pond went on for many years, from the Newman & Co. time period to the mid 1900s. *(Photo, right: Beaver Pond showing Harbour Breton in the background.)*



Cutting ice was quite a business with fishing schooners getting it to ice down their bait. With so many Nova Scotia and Newfoundland schooners coming to Harbour Breton, there was a great demand for ice. They could obtain ice from the Pierces, Elliots, Coadys, or from Mr. John Rose, all of whom cut ice in Beaver Pond for sale to the banking schooners. Ice was cut, hauled to the ice house near the shore, and stored there for sale. Some ice was used for their own business usage as well. Some local individuals cut ice for the bankers as well. Mr. George Chapman and his two sons, Tom and Bill, “put up ice” for four or five years during the 1930s.

Ice was sawed out in square blocks, approximately 18 or 20 inches square, with a pit saw. The blocks were put on a slide and hauled to the ice house for storage. In the ice house the ice was covered with sawdust from Bay d’Espoir and the house was surrounded with boughs to shade it from the sun.

During the 1930s, it was common to cut at least 20 dory loads per ice house. This amount would be cut in about two weeks. It was not unheard of to get \$5.00 for a dory load of ice during the 1930s. The demand for ice declined after the caplin run was over during the latter part of June.

Bill Arch Chapman tells a story about an incident in Beaver Pond as a result of cutting ice. “So many people cutting ice, left a rather large area bare of ice and one morning, Patty Martin, on his way in the woods and not watching where he was going, found himself stepping off the ice and into the water. Fortunately for Patty, Hughie Bullen was coming behind him and pulled him to safety.” Crossing Beaver Pond in the winter time to go in the woods was normally the route to use because good wood existed a little farther away, in the Bungay’s Pond and Bobby’s Droke (Moonlit Valley) areas.

Because of its close proximity to the community, Beaver Pond is still used today, not for ice cutting but as a recreational area for ice skating and snowmobiling. Unsure of the origin of its name, one would assume that beavers used the pond at some point in time.

Photo, left: Cutting Ice, A Newman & Co. photo, c.1887. Believed to be Cluett’s Pond, near the Newman Premises in Gaultois. (Photo courtesy of Newman & Co. Photo Album, Town of Harbour Breton, NL)



Fall 2014 ICH Report

By Dale Jarvis

It has been a busy few months for the Intangible Cultural Heritage office, and a few months without a newsletter. To give you an idea of some of the projects we've been working on, read on!

Our big project this summer was **the Petty Harbour Oral History Project**, running from June-August. HFNL hired Folklore graduate student Terra Barrett to work on an oral history project collecting memories about the concerts, times and social customs in Petty Harbour. This was a collaboration between HFNL and the Petty Harbour Maddox Cove Heritage Museum, and was funded through SWASP. Collected stories will be made available through Memorial University's website, and will also be archived at the Petty Harbour Maddox Cove Heritage Museum.

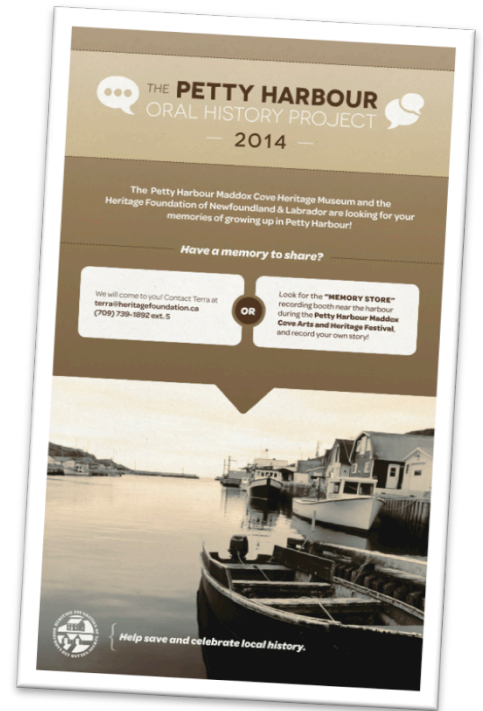
On Tuesday, September 2nd, HFNL and MUN Folklore Department hosted a booklet launch for **"Quidi Vidi Village: A Part of St. John's, Apart from St. John's."** This work presents the findings of the 2013 field school for incoming graduate students to the Folklore Department of Memorial University. It focuses on the architecture of Quidi Vidi Village and was made as a collaboration between MUN, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Quidi Vidi Village Foundation, and the City of St. John's.

Also in September, we ran our **"Fishing for Folklore: An introduction to Intangible Cultural Heritage"** intensive workshop in Petty Harbour. Participants learned about planning an intangible cultural heritage project, writing field notes, oral history interviewing, safeguarding traditional crafts and skills, creating memory maps of communities, documenting traditional boatbuilding techniques, public folklore programming, and report writing. The workshop was organized in cooperation with the Wooden Boat Museum of NL, as part of their annual wooden boat conference.

I presented on the workshop at the boat conference on September 6th, and then ran to the airport to catch a plane for UNESCO meetings at UNESCO headquarters, Paris, mentioned on the first page of this newsletter. Then, following the ICH meetings in Paris, I delivered two workshops on community documentation of intangible cultural heritage for FARO - the Flemish organization coordinating ICH projects in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium.

Back from Flanders, I made a trip to the Department of Folklore's Witless Bay Field School, and then helped run a **Root Cellar Talk and Walk** in Cupids on Sept 24th. Fellow folklorist Crystal Braye and I hosted an event all about root cellars at the Cupids Legacy Centre. The event included a tour of two cellars at the Cupids archaeological site, a presentation on root cellars, and a discussion of local traditions around root cellars and food preservation.

September 28 was our **"Tiddly on the Lawn"** event in partnership with The Rooms, here in St. John's. Tiddly, also known as piddly, pippy, snig, or puss, was once a very popular game that was played all over Newfoundland and Labrador. While the rules changed from community to community, the game pieces were usually the same: two rocks or bricks, and two sticks. HFNL partnered with The Rooms to bring participants from Carbonear's World Cup of Tiddly to show the Townies how it is done!



October brought the **Heritage Canada Conference**, in Charlottetown, PEI. I gave a lecture on NL's Intangible Cultural Heritage and the link between culture and place in a session moderated by HFNL board member, and the Province's director of heritage, Jerry Dick.

In November, I met up with the volunteers of the newly-formed **Southwest Arm Historical Society**, in Hodge's Cove, who are just starting out with heritage work in their area, including some oral history research on local stories. Their website will be launched officially this fall, so stay tuned for updates from them.

If you have questions about possible projects in your region, or want to book a community workshop on folklore, oral history, or intangible cultural heritage, call me at 1-888-739-1892 or email ich@heritagefoundation.ca.

Hoist Your Sails and Run: Traditional Games of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Heritage Foundation is embarking on a project to bring senior citizens together with young people to talk about traditional games: rounders, tiddly, skipping rhymes, marbles, hopscotch, kite-making, and the like. Partnering with community organizations and the Department of Folklore at Memorial University, we'll be setting up a social space where seniors can pair up with students, share a meal, and then share their childhood memories. We hope to get senior citizens out of their homes and acting as mentors to young adults who want to know what games were played before iPads and 3DSs took over.

At the end of the project, the students will compile a booklet on traditional games. This booklet will celebrate the seniors' contributions and role as tradition-bearers in the community. It will be printed, given back to the community, and shared with seniors, youth and recreation committees, and made available freely online.

For more information, or to share your memory of the games of your youth, please contact Sharon at sharon@heritagefoundation.ca or 739-1892 ext 3.

Sharon King-Campbell

Project Co-ordinator, Hoist Your Sails and Run Project

mummersfestival.ca

Hobby Horse Workshops Victoria Park Poolhouse December 1st 6:00-9:00pm December 4th 6:00-9:00pm December 6th 1:00-5:00pm	Box and Bird Mask Workshop The Rooms December 6th 2:00-4:00pm
Unveiled: research and stories from "Any Mummers 'Lowed In?" The Rooms December 3rd 7:00-8:30pm	Mini Mummers & Festival Fashion The Rooms December 7th 2:00-4:00pm
Ugly Stick Workshops Victoria Park Poolhouse December 7th 1:00-5:00pm December 8th 6:00-9:00pm	Nalujuk Night: a public forum The Rooms December 10th 7:00-8:30pm
	Mummer-oke! Inn of Olde December 11th 8:00-11:00pm
	
	Rig Up Bishop Feild Elementary School December 13th 1:00-2:00pm
	Mummers Parade Bishop Feild Elementary School December 13th 2:00-3:00pm
	Scuff 'n' Scoff Bishop Feild Elementary School December 13th 3:00-4:00pm
<p>*If the weather is REALLY bad, Parade Day Events will be held on Sunday, December 14th. Same time. Same place.</p>	
	

